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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Employment Bulletin

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A Department of Employment Security Publication

Volume # 9 | September 1989 | No. 9

RHODE ISLAND EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT - AUGUST 1989

Total establishment employment in Rhode Island decreased by 1,000 in the July-August period to 455,900, as a result of declines in the nonmanufacturing sector which more than offset employment gains in several manufacturing industries, reported John S. Renza, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Employment Security. The current job total is 400 below the year ago level of 456,300.

Overall manufacturing employment rose by 1,500 to 111,100 in August, mainly the result of factories reopening following the July vacation period. Compared to a year ago, however, manufacturing jobs were down 2,100. Employment in both the Durable Goods and Nondurable Goods producing industries increased from the prior month - by 1,000 and 500, respectively. The largest monthly job gains were reported in Jewelry-Silverware (+700) and Textiles (+300), followed by smaller advances of 100 each in Stone-Clay-Glass, Primary Metals, Fabricated Metals, Nonelectrical Machinery, Paper Products, Chemical Products, Plastics Products and Leather Products. In contrast to this, declines of 100 each were posted in Transportation Equipment, Food-Beverage and Apparel. The remaining segments - four in Durable Goods and two in Nondurable Goods - registered stable employment from July to August.

Nonmanufacturing employment decreased by 2,500 in August to 344,800, primarily attributable to the effect of a labor dispute in the Communications sector of the Transportation/Public Utilities industry (-1,400). Total Government employment, influenced by the state's early retirement program, was off 900 and Services dropped 400 over the month. An upturn of 200 workers was recorded in Trade, while employment levels in Contract Construction and Finance/Insurance/Real Estate showed no change from last month. Total employment in Rhode Island's nonfactory sector did show an annual increase of 1,700 compared to August 1988.

The August work week averaged 39.1 hours, up 0.1 of an hour from last month and a year ago. Production workers averaged $9.12 in August, down 2 cents from the prior month, but up 57 cents on an annual comparison.

The jobless total in Rhode Island fell by 2,200 to the August unemployment estimate of 19,200. One year ago, the number of unemployed stood at 16,400. As a result, the state's unadjusted unemployment rate dropped from 4.0 percent in July to the current estimate of 3.6 percent. On a seasonally adjusted basis the rate fell a tenth of a percent - from 3.9 percent last month to 3.8 percent in August. A year ago Rhode Island's unadjusted and seasonally adjusted rates were estimated at 3.0 and 3.3 percent, respectively.

Nationally, the civilian unadjusted unemployment rate declined to 5.1 percent in August from the month earlier estimate of 5.3 percent. The United States seasonally adjusted rate was unchanged from the July estimate of 5.2 percent.

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

October is NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH (formerly National Employ the Handicapped Week) and was established by Congress to allow more time for a concerted effort to be made to address the needs of persons with disabilities, to further the goal of full integration into the workforce and to salute the achievements of people with disabilities in their jobs.

Announcing the 45th observance of handicapped employability, DES Director John S. Renza commends the record of the many Rhode Island employers who take a positive approach to hiring and retaining workers with disabilities.

During Fiscal Year 1989 a total of 1,362 handicapped individuals sought employment through the R.I. Job Service system of local offices. Approximately 33% of them - 448 were placed in jobs. In the past 45 years the Job Service has accentuated the positive - that a worker's abilities are far more important than his or her limitations.

Employers wanting to hire qualified handicapped workers are encouraged to list their job openings with the Job Bank - 277-3588 or any local office of the Rhode Island Job Service. They are listed in the blue pages of the telephone directory under Employment Security Department.

GOOD NEWS FOR RHODE ISLAND EMPLOYERS!

As you know the Department of Employment Security has been collecting quarterly wage records from all Rhode Island employers since the first quarter of 1988. Beginning on October 1, 1989 this wage information will be used to compute Unemployment Insurance (U.I.) claims.

How will this benefit you as an employer? In most cases you will no longer be required to send in wage information on your former employees when they file a claim for U.I. benefits. The wage data necessary to compute the claim should already be on our files.

The claimant's last employer will be asked to return a form to verify the separation information given by the claimant. Any other base period employer whose account may be charged for a portion of the benefits will be notified. It will not be necessary for them to respond unless they disagree with their potential liability for such charges. The new forms will be computer generated and will be somewhat different than the forms you receive now.

These changes will speed up the claims process and reduce your paperwork. Questions on these changes should be directed to the Administrative Benefits Division of the Department of Employment Security (277-3651).

NOTE: Employers will, however, continue to be required to provide wage information at the time individual employees file claims for Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI).

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
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Employment and unemployment statistics contained in this report were compiled by THE DEPT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY in cooperation with the BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, U S DEPT OF LABOR For additional information contact RESEARCH AND STATISTICS AT 277-3706 TDD Voice: 277-3718

RHODE ISLAND

Labor Force - Unemployment Estimates
(In thousands)

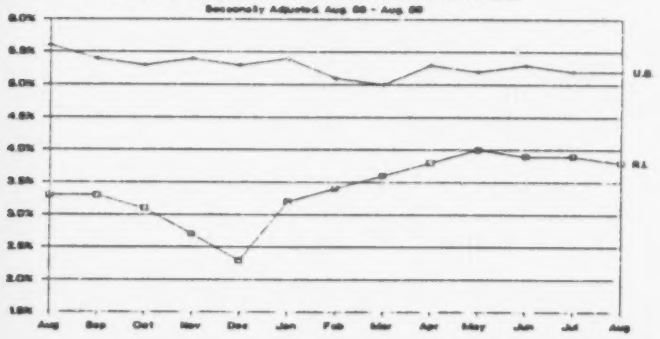
	August 1989	July 1989	August 1988	
Civilian Labor Force	534 3	537 8*	537.8	
Unemployment	19 2	21 4*	16 4	
Rate (Unadjusted)	3 6	4 0*	3 0	
Seasonally Adjusted Rate	3.8	3 9	3 3	*Revised

UNITED STATES

Labor Force - Unemployment Estimates
(In thousands)

	August 1989	July 1989	August 1988
Civilian Labor Force	125,444	126,238	123,396
Unemployment	6,352	6,736	6,659
Rate (Unadjusted)	5.1	5.3	5.4
Seasonally Adjusted Rate	5.2	5.2	5.6

R.I. and U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES



TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND

	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS			NET CHANGE FROM	
	August 1989	July 1989	August 1988	July 1989	August 1988
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	455.9	456.9	456.3	- 1000	- 400
MANUFACTURING	111.1	109.6	113.2	+ 1500	- 2100
NONMANUFACTURING	344 8	347.3	343.1	- 2500	+ 1700
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	23.4	23.4	22.3	0	+ 1100
TRANS. & PUBLIC UTILITIES	14.3	15.7	15.5	- 1400	- 1200
TRADE (Wholesale & Retail)	105.6*	105 4	105.4	+ 200	+ 200
FINANCE, INS & REAL ESTATE	26 8	26 8	26.7	0	+ 100
SERVICE (Miscellaneous)	117.5	117.9	116.3	- 400	+ 1200
GOVERNMENT	57.2	58.1	56.9	- 900	+ 300

ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS AND HOURS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN R.I.

August 1989

	EMPLOYMENT (In Thousands)	PRODUCTION-WORKER AVERAGES Weekly Earnings	Weekly Hours	Hourly Earnings
ALL MANUFACTURING	111.1	356.59	39.1	9.12
DURABLE GOODS	75 6	350.36	38 8	9 03
LUMBER/FURNITURE	3.1	428.37	39 3	10.90
STONE-CLAY-GLASS	1.9	466.29	38 6	12 08
PRIMARY METALS	4.3	416 58	41.7	9.99
FABRICATED METALS	8.8	350.88	40.8	8.60
NONELECTRIC MACH.	5.6	463 84	41.6	11.15
ELECTRICAL MACH.	10.6	330.22	38.0	8.69
TRANS. EQUIPMENT	9.0	440.78	37.9	11 63
INSTRUMENTS	4.7	380.37	40.9	9.30
JEWELRY-SILVERWARE	21.3	283.86	38.0	7.47
MISCELLANEOUS MFG.	6.3	272.92	34.9	7.82
NONDURABLE GOODS	35.5	369 74	39 8	9.29
FOOD-BEVERAGE	2.7	364.01	40.9	8.90
TEXTILES	9.6	319 60	39.9	8.01
APPAREL	2.1	292.14	38.9	7.51
PAPER PRODUCTS	2.6	362.20	41 3	8.77
PRINTING-PUBLISHING	6.9	471.96	36.7	12.86
CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	3.3	463.56	41.5	11.17
RUBBER PRODUCTS	1.4	401.00	42.3	9.48
PLASTICS PRODUCTS	4.8	384.48	40.6	9.47
LEATHER PRODUCTS	2.1	268.13	39.9	6.72

armers, Self-employed, Domestic and Armed Services personnel are excluded from the Establishment Employment figures.. Current month figures are RELIMINARY. Prior month and year figures are REVISED.
Labor Dispute